

**INDIANA COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES MAY 21, 2009**

**Indiana Government Center South - Conference Center Room A
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204**

Commission Members in Attendance: Noble Stallons, Humbert Lopes, Roxsandra Clemons-McFarthing, John (Bob) Johnson, Ed Gottschling

Commission Members Absent: Geneva Sams, Glen Bonsett, Anita McColleston, Richard (Dick) Grace

Visitors in Attendance: Melba Stallons, John Holmes, Rebecca Kasper, Faith Laird, Willard Mays, Sheila Killebrew, Linda Wolcott, Jackie Cissell, Willie Poindexter

Call to Order: Chairperson Noble Stallons called the meeting to order and had the Commission members and audience introduce themselves. Noble informed the Commissioners that former Commission on Aging member Roscoe Harkins passed away. The Commissioners offered their condolences to his family.

The February and March minutes were approved with unanimous approval from the Commissioners.

Older Adult Mental Health Issues: Willard Mays, Assistant Deputy Director for Public Policy with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction, presented on mental health issues affecting older adults. He reviewed services available to older adults in Indiana, including Community Mental Health Centers. Willard also provided a copy of his presentation to the Commissioners and audience members.

Public Comments: No public comments.

Division of Aging Update: Division of Aging Deputy Director Faith Laird introduced Rebecca Kasper, Interim Director of Legislative Affairs for FSSA, who provided a legislative update. Rebecca provided background information on a number of bills and answered Commissioner's questions regarding those bills. Additionally, she stated that since the legislature did not pass a budget prior to session ending, there will be a special session to pass a budget. Governor Daniels is expected to call the legislature back into session around mid-June.

Commissioners Report: Chairperson Noble Stallons appointed Humbert Lopes and Bob Johnson as the nominating committee chairs. The meeting schedules will remain the same as last year.

Noble praised Division of Aging staff member Jackie Cissell for her work with the NNORCS throughout Indiana.

Commissioner Lopes reported that in his district, Area 8 is currently undergoing strategic planning for all counties and Area 6 is still active and leading in the housing market.

Commissioner Clemons-McFarthing reported her district is facing budget challenges. Additionally, there are concerns about how family members may be treating their loved ones in such a difficult economy when many people are facing financial hardships.

Commissioner Gottschling said his local AAA is involved with the AdvantAge Initiative and is working to promote elder-friendly communities. Additionally, the AAA is utilizing Options counselors and the 2-1-1 system.

Commissioner Johnson is a former member of the Board at Area 4. He reported that their annual meeting was recently and the budget crisis and its impact on school systems was discussed.

Adjournment: With no further business Noble adjourned the meeting.